

MARY E. SESSIONS.

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JUNE 3, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. BOTKIN, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 2617.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2617) granting a pension to Mary E. Sessions, have examined the same and all the evidence and most respectfully report:

This bill proposes to pension at \$12 per month Mary E. Sessions, of Guilford, Vt., the mother of Henry Eells, late a private in Companies E and A, Eleventh Vermont Infantry (First Vermont Heavy Artillery), who served from January 15, 1864, to August 25, 1865, and was honorably discharged. He is shown by the records to have been treated while in service for chronic diarrhea, and in 1869 he died from consumption.

The evidence shows that his health was poor at discharge and that he did not recover, but continued in poor health until he died. It is not shown that lung disease developed in the service, but that he became reduced from diarrhea in service, and that after discharge lung disease developed and caused death.

The mother filed a claim in the Pension Office, but it was rejected on the ground that soldier left a widow. That action was correct. The mother can have no title under general law. But it appears that the widow long ago remarried and is now the wife of another man, so she also has no legal title to pension.

The mother is now 83 years of age and dependent. A similar bill was favorably reported from this committee in the Fifty-fourth Congress, and in that report it is stated that soldier served in the Regular Army five years and was discharged in 1862, but no record of such service appears among the papers.

There is no one who can be pensioned on account of the service of the soldier except this poor old mother.

The bill is reported back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In line 5 insert "Eells" in place of "Eels."

At the end of line 7 add "and pay her a pension at the rate of twelve dollars per month."

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting a pension to Mary E. Sessions."

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